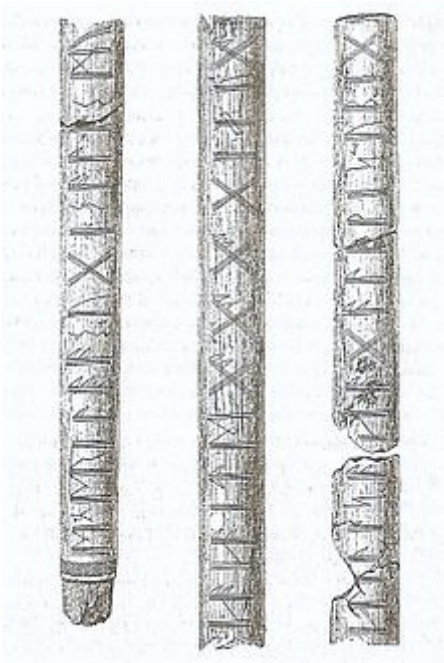
# Kragehul I

**Kragehul I** (DR 196 U) is a migration period lance-shaft found on Funen, Denmark. It is now in the collection of the National Museum of Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark. The spear shaft was found in 1877 during the excavation of the classic war booty sacrificial site Kragehul on southern Funen. The site holds five deposits of military equipment from the period 200 to 475 AD. The spear shaft probably belongs to the latest deposit.



The Kragehul lance shaft. Drawn by Stephens in 1884.

## Contents


**Inscription**

**Interpretations**

- Schneider
- Düwel
- Pieper
- MacLeod and Mees

**See also**

**Notes**

**References**

**External links**


## Inscription

The Elder Futhark inscription reads:

> *ek e≾rila≾z asugisalas m≾uh≾a h≾aite g≾ag≾ag≾a ginu g≾ah≾e* […] *lija* […] *hagala wiju big–* […][1]

The first part is read as:

> *ek erilaz āsugīsalas muha haite, gagaga*

Interpreted as "I, the nobleman (erilaz) of Āsugīsalaz, am called Muha, ga-ga-ga!", where "ga-ga-ga" is some sort of ritual chant or battle cry. *Āsugīsalaz* contains *āsu-*, "god", and *gīsalaz*, "pledge", and is a personal name. *Muha* appears to be a personal name. The runes of *gagaga* are displayed as a row of three bindrunes based on the X-shape of the *g* rune with sidetwigs attached to its extremities for the *a*. A similar sequence *gægogæ* is found on the Undley bracteate.

## Interpretations

The *gagaga* and the remaining part of the inscriptions have prompted varying and partly fanciful interpretations.

### Schneider

Schneider (1969) opts for bull sacrifice, reading *g-a* as "gift, god!" and the remaining as

> *Ginugahelija Hagala wiju bi g[aia].*

"the mighty roarer [the sacrificial bull], the Hagal, I dedicate to the spear".

### Düwel

Düwel (1983) reads the thrice repeated *g-a* as *g[ibu] a[uja]* "I give good fortune". For the second part of the inscription, he has

> *ginu-ga he[lmat]lija ... hag?l(a) wi[g]ju bi g[aia].*
> "magical-"ga", the helmet-destroying hail I dedicate to the spear"

### Pieper

Pieper (1999) reads *g-a* as *g[ebu] a[nsu]* "gift to the god [Odin]", with following

> *ginu-ga hellija hag?la wiju bi g[ebu].*
> "magical-god-gift, hellish hail I dedicate upon this gift"

### MacLeod and Mees

MacLeod and Mees (2006) read *gagaga* as an onomatopoeia related to forms like the Undley bracteate's *gægogæ*, and read the expression as a metrical charm

> *gagaga ginu gahellija, hagala wiju bi g[aize].*
> "*gagaga* I yell resoundingly, hail I dedicate in the s[pear]"

## See also

- Æsir
- Illerup Ådal
- Roman Iron Age weapon deposits
- Runic alphabet
- Weapons sacrifice

## Notes

1. According to Rundata 2.0.

## References


- Düwel, Klaus, *Runenkunde* 2nd ed., Stuttgart 1983.
- MacLeod, Mindy, and Bernard Mees, *Runic Amulets and Magic Objects*, Woodbridge 2006.
- Pieper, Peter, *"Fluchweihe" oder "Weihefluch": Imitative Kampfesmagie bei den Germanen nach dem Zeugnis von Runeninschriften* in: Studien zur Sachsenforschung, 13, 1999, 303-324.
- Rundata 2.0 for Windows
- Schneider, Karl, *Runische Inschriftenzeugnisse zum Stieropferkult der Angelsachsen* in: Festschrift für Edgar Mertner, (hg.) Fabian, Bernhard, Suerbaum, Ulrich. München 1969, 9-54.


## External links

- runenprojekt.uni-kiel.de entry

Retrieved from 'https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Kragehul_I&oldid=746933585'

**This page was last edited on 30 October 2016, at 12:26 (UTC).**

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.